



Farm and Market Report- Extra

March 4, 2011

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Last Opportunity to Give Vendor Feedback by March 7th

The MDAR has contracted with Project for Public Spaces (PPS) to examine, document and report on conditions and opportunities associated with the development of a year-round, indoor public market in downtown Boston. Broad input will be critical to defining a successful market. To assess potential vendor interest in this proposed public market, PPS is asking that you take just 3-5 minutes to complete an online survey.

Please complete the survey by Monday, March 7th. The survey can be found at:
www.surveymonkey.com/s/BPMVendorInterestSurvey

Project for Public Spaces (PPS) is a New York-based non-profit planning and design organization, which for over 25 years has provided assistance to public market projects in more than 200 cities and towns in both the U.S. and internationally. For more information about PPS, please visit: www.pps.org. Thank you in advance for your participation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nora Owens at noraowens@comcast.net.

New Public Market webpage: www.mass.gov/publicmarket

Employment and Labor Considerations for Farm and Food Businesses

Thursday, March 10th, 12:00 pm - 1 pm - UVM Extension New Farmer Project & Law for Food Webinar

Founders of Law for Food, Kenneth Miller and Adam Prizio provide legal support specifically tailored to meet the business and legal needs of small-scale farmers and food entrepreneurs. This presentation will focus on hiring and managing employees, handling on-farm work stays, internships, and volunteer labor. Legal distinctions between interns and employees, as well as the fine line separating independent contractors from employees will be discussed. Other topics to be covered include worker's compensation, unemployment, H2A visas, wage & hours statutes, worker accommodations and workplace safety. More than a dry discussion of the law, this session will examine the real costs of hiring and training workers in the context of the financial realities of an agricultural business, with a view to understanding how business owners can manage the business, and their employees, profitably. Newcomers to online learning are welcome. All you need to participate is internet access and a computer that you can hear sound through.

To participate, please go to <http://tinyurl.com/UVMEXT-LaborOnFarms> at about 11:45 am. For more information, contact newfarmer@uvm.edu or call 802-223-2389x203. If you require accommodations to participate in this program, please let Mary Peabody know by March 5 at 802-223-2389 or 1-866-860-1382 (toll-free in Vt.) or mary.peabody@uvm.edu so we may assist you.

If you have not participated in a webinar before, we recommend you download the necessary software for free the day before the webinar is scheduled at <http://www.illuminate.com/support/index.jsp>.

The Annual Massachusetts Poultry Enhancement Meeting

Thursday, March 24, 2011, Bolton Public Library, 738 Main Street, Bolton, MA 01740, 978-779-2839

Time: 6pm-9pm (registration begins at 5:45pm)

Cost: FREE (light refreshments)

For the backyard chicken enthusiasts to more established poultry operations, the MA Poultry Enhancement Meeting has all the latest information on poultry. This year's meeting is hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) and the Massachusetts Poultry Enhancement Council (MPEC) and will be held at the Bolton Public Library on March 24, 2011 at 6pm to 9pm. Agenda items include all aspects of the poultry spectrum:

- Leading guest speakers from the poultry sector
- Poultry Best Practices Guide
- Regulatory Guidelines

- Emergency Disease Response Plan
- Information about MassGrown & Fresher (a free online marketing tool to promote your poultry business to consumers) and other MDAR marketing materials.

This is an open meeting for residents of Massachusetts and surrounding states. Any business or individual group may provide their contact information and a representative will be present at the meeting. Please contact Ed Hageman at 617-626-1796 or Edward.Hageman@state.ma.us for more information.

New England FarmWays Agritourism Activities for Destination Farm Operators in MA

1) 2010 Agritourism Assessment Survey

NEFW is seeking your responses to this survey about agritourism at MA farm destinations during 2010. Responses will provide critical information to help develop additional services and attract more support to grow agritourism in southern New England. Responses are needed by Tuesday, March 15th.

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ricape>

2) 2011 NEFW Agritourism Training – The Destination Farm in Transition

2 locations:

- April 5th, 2011 - Salt Water Farm Vineyard, Stonington CT
- April 12, 2011 - Zukas Hilltop Barn, Spencer, MA

For more information and to register: www.nefarmways.com/

2010 County Stats Now Available on MDAR Website

[MDAR](#) has just updated the latest 2010 statistics on farmers' markets, horse stables, composting facilities, and more. County by county, find out how agriculture and the Department of Agricultural Resources' programs and services fare in communities across the state:

- [Eastern Massachusetts](#) -- Norfolk, Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk Counties (PDF)
- [Cape Cod and the Islands](#) -- Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket (PDF)
- [Pioneer Valley](#) -- Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties (PDF)
- [Southeast Massachusetts](#) -- Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket, and Plymouth Counties (PDF)
- [Western Massachusetts](#) -- Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties (PDF)
- [Worcester County](#) (PDF)

JUST IN: Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard Sullivan is now on Twitter!

Follow him at twitter.com/massEEA. And while you're at it, don't forget some other great Twitter sites:

For the straight-from-the-field-on-Massachusetts-Ag, follow twitter.com/AgCommishSoares

For the cutting-edge-on-energy-for-citizens-and-small-businesses follow

twitter.com/maenergysmarts

And for the most-on-wildlife-parks-agriculture-and-outdoor- activities-and-events follow

twitter.com/magreatoutdoors.



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of local agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – [Agricultural Development](#), [Animal Health](#), [Crop and Pest Services](#), and [Technical Assistance](#) – MDAR strives to support, regulate, and enhance the Commonwealth's agricultural community, working to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, go to www.mass.gov/agr or follow us at www.twitter.com/agcommishsoares for the latest agricultural trends and updates. To keep up to date on workshops and events, visit www.mass.gov/agr/events/coming_up.htm.